

Date: March 4, 2022

From: Elvis Novas
4 Stetson Pl
Danbury, CT 06811

To: Representative Sanchez and Senator McCrory and
members of the Education Committee

RE: Testimonial Opposing Senate Bill #229 (An Act Concerning the Charter School Approval Process)

Dear Representative Sanchez and Senator McCrory and members of the Education Committee:

I'm a resident of Danbury, CT for the last 17 years. My youngest daughter is a senior at DHS. I am writing to ask you to strongly oppose the Senate Bill #229, An Act Concerning the Charter School Approval Process.

Based on the system used in CT that relies on local property taxes it creates a great disparity in how per pupil spending is done for some communities in CT like Danbury, which is impacting greatly how resources are available to students in our district.

Our district recently approved and incorporated a new Portrait of Graduate where it is establishing the kind of graduates we will have in Danbury: innovator, communicator, collaborator. This portrait celebrates all forms of diversity and uses the acquired skills and knowledge to transform life. It is the responsibility of our elected Board of Education members to determine the education curriculum, policies and procedures needed to educate the children of Danbury and Connecticut. But this cannot be achieved if we don't have a strong system that is properly funded.

The charter school will put these funds at risk. Some of their supplementary services (such as: transportation, nurses, custodial staff, and special education) depend on the local public school district, taking the tax dollars away from the district already lacking the proper funding. I consider that these tax dollars (Federal, State and Local) should and have to be used to pay for real public education.

While the voices of parents and teachers are marginalized, some people are feeling very much empowered by charter schools: people with personal interests, corporations and non-profit businesses claiming that they can provide a better education for the students of CT or just to achieve their personal agenda. Please, focus your efforts to make our public-school system stronger, which is possible with your support and financial investment, and vote NO on Senate Bill #229.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elvis Novas